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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An intelligent telephone notification method, comprising:  
sampling ambient conditions;  
detecting an event requiring notification; and  
automatically providing notification of said event responsively to said sampled ambient conditions.
2. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 1, wherein said event comprises:  
an incoming phone call.
3. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 1, further comprises:  
sampling ambient noise levels.
4. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 3, further comprising:  
selecting a volume level for a ringer responsive to a sampled ambient noise.
5. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
providing a menu for selecting a response based on said ambient conditions.
6. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
utilizing a telephone microphone for sampling said ambient conditions.

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7. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
sampling said ambient conditions in response to said step of detecting an event requiring notification.

8. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
sampling ambient conditions at selected time intervals.

9. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 1, further comprising:  
sampling a level of ambient noise, and  
producing a ring having a volume greater than said level of ambient noise

10. A method for intelligent notification, comprising:  
detecting an event requiring notification;  
electronically measuring an ambient condition; and  
providing notification of said event in a manner that is responsive to said electronically measured ambient conditions.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:  
detecting an incoming phone call.

12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:  
electronically measuring an ambient noise level in response to said incoming phone call.

13. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:  
electronically measuring an ambient noise level at selected intervals prior to said incoming phone call.

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14. The method Claim 11, further comprising:

providing a ring that has a volume louder than said ambient noise level by a selectable amount.

15. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

utilizing a predefined notification signal for ambient conditions.

16. An intelligent telephone notification system, said intelligent telephone notification system comprising:

a telephone;

a microphone for said telephone;

a ringer for said telephone;

a sampling circuit for sampling ambient noise using said microphone; and

a control for varying a volume of said ringer responsively to said ambient noise.

17. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 16, further comprising:

a menu to permit an operator to select ringer characteristics for anticipated ambient noise conditions.

18. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 17, further comprising:

at least one of said ringer characteristics being a volume of said ringer.

19. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 17, further comprising:

at least one of said ringer characteristics being a tone of said ringer.

20. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 16, further comprising:

a detector for detecting an incoming call.

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21. The intelligent telephone notification system of Claim 20, further comprising:

a control for initiating operation of said sampling circuit to sample ambient noise responsively to said detector detecting an incoming call. A program storage device readable by a machine, said program storage device embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for intelligent notification, said method comprising:

detecting an event requiring notification;

electronically measuring an ambient condition; and

providing notification of said event in a manner that is responsive to said electronically measured ambient conditions.

22. The program storage device of Claim 22, said method further comprising:

detecting an incoming phone call.

23. The program storage device of Claim 23, said method further comprising:

electronically measuring an ambient noise level in response to said incoming phone call.

24. The program storage device of Claim 22, said method further comprising:

electronically measuring an ambient noise level at selected intervals prior to said incoming phone call.

25. The program storage device of Claim 22, said method further comprising:

providing a ring that has a volume louder than said ambient noise level by a selectable amount.

26. The program storage device of Claim 21, said method further comprising:

utilizing a predefined notification signal for ambient conditions.